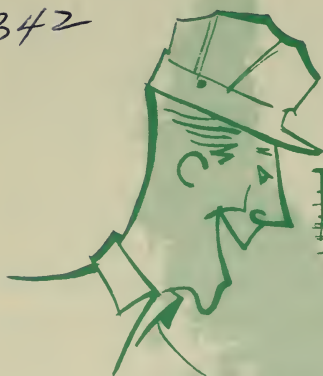


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**IF YOU
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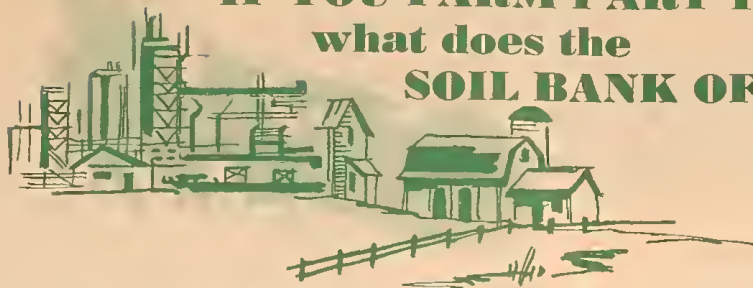
**what does the
SOIL
BANK
OFFER
YOU**



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IF YOU FARM PART TIME what does the SOIL BANK OFFER YOU



If you work in business or industry and farm part time, you may find the Soil Bank helpful. You may be able to use the Soil Bank to take land out of crop production, to make long-time changes in land use, and to protect your land from erosion or other damage.

If you're thinking about working more hours in the plant, office, or factory and less time on the farm, you will want to know more about the Soil Bank. You may want more time for special training or night courses to qualify you for a better paying job off the farm; to enable you to take a full-time job in business or industry; or to take things a bit easier because of health or other reasons.

When you take land out of such crops as wheat, corn, and cotton, and put it in the Soil Bank, you will have more time for work away from the farm—and you will help reduce the surpluses plaguing agriculture.

The Soil Bank, with its provisions for tree planting, can help you put part or all of your cropland in trees for soil protection, beauty, wildlife benefits, and for future income from sales of timber products.

With its special wildlife practices, the Soil Bank can help you make your farm produce more game to hunt or more fish to catch.

Trees, grass, wildlife plantings, and farm ponds are good uses for cropland that is *not needed now* to produce food or clothing.

This publication explains how the Soil Bank works, and where you can get the details you need to help you decide whether to put all or a part of your cropland in the Soil Bank.

The Soil Bank programs are, of course, voluntary. *You* decide what land, and how much, to “bank.”

WHY THE SOIL BANK?

During World War II, farmers were urged to increase production. They did. After the war, the wartime price supports were continued. And most farmers postponed production adjustment.

Surpluses began to pile up, especially of wheat, cotton, corn, rice, peanuts, and tobacco.

Marketing quotas or acreage allotments, or both, were placed in effect as required by law to reduce production. Surplus disposal was stepped up wherever possible, at home and abroad. Yet surpluses continued to pour into Government warehouses to set new storage records—up to almost 8 million bales of cotton in 1955 and nearly a billion bushels each of wheat and corn in 1956.

Farmers also were caught in a postwar cost-price squeeze that made adjustment to peacetime production even more difficult. Realized net farm income

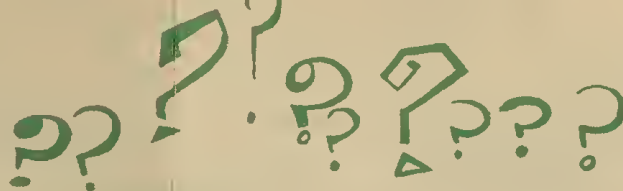
dropped from \$17.2 billion in 1947 to \$11.3 billion in 1955—a loss of about \$5.9 billion. Net farm income turned upward in 1956, although production costs that year were higher than they were in 1955.

The Soil Bank is a direct attack on surpluses. Farmers can use it to take land out of current production, and thus speed soil, water, forest, and wildlife conservation. They can use this program to maintain or increase net farm income while needed adjustments are being made.

Land now producing crops that are not needed and cannot be marketed can be “banked” for future use by our fast-growing population.

The Soil Bank supplements, but does not replace, other farm programs. It is an emergency program to help farmers reduce accumulated crop surpluses as rapidly as possible.

WHAT IS THE SOIL BANK?



The Soil Bank offers farmers two new programs they can use to retire land from current crop production and to conserve resources for the future—the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve. These programs are available to farmers, whether they farm part time or full time.

The *Acreage Reserve* is aimed directly at our crop surpluses. If you have an acreage allotment for one or more of the “basic” crops—wheat, corn, cotton, rice, peanuts, and tobacco—you can use the Acreage Reserve for each crop in the current program to reduce production of those crops without loss of net income.

Any farmer with land in crop production, whether or not he grows “basic” crops, can use the *Conservation Reserve*.

Through the Conservation Reserve, you can make a sound long-term investment in better land use and treatment. At the same time, you can help check the spread of surpluses from “basic” crops to other cash crops—helping to reduce general crop surpluses.

Conservation Reserve payments also will help you maintain net income, while you shift land from cultivation to conservation uses. And the conservation practices themselves will bring soil, water, forestry, and wildlife dividends for the future.

PAYMENTS



Acreage Reserve

If you have an allotment for one of the “basic” crops, an Acreage Reserve payment rate per acre will be set by the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee for your farm. This rate is based on the productivity of your land and your farming operations.

Payments are made to keep land out of production of the “basic” crops under 1-year agreements. These payments are expected to give a farmer a net income about equal to the net income he would have received by producing a crop on the land he puts in the Soil Bank.

Peanuts and extra-long-staple cotton were not included in the 1957 Acreage Reserve. Surpluses of these crops were not large enough to justify their being in the program.

You can check with your county ASC office to learn your farm payment rate for each allotment crop in the program.

Conservation Reserve

You can earn two kinds of payments for putting land in the Conservation Reserve.

One is the conservation practice payment. In most counties, you can earn up to 80 percent of the cost of planting grasses and legumes or trees, or planting shrubs, trees, and other plants for wildlife cover and food on the designated Conservation Reserve land. The cost of building farm ponds also will be shared—up to 80 percent of the first \$625; up to 40 percent of the next \$375; and up to 20 percent of the cost above \$1,000. The total cost-share for each pond dam cannot be more than \$1,500.

If you put land in the Conservation Reserve, you also will receive an annual rental payment for each acre for each year it is in the program. The national average rental payment is \$10 an acre. Your county ASC office can tell you the rate for your farm.

Who Can Use the Soil Bank?

For the Acreage Reserve.—Any farmer who has an “old farm” allotment for one or more of the “basic” crops for which the program is offered can put land in the Acreage Reserve.

For the Conservation Reserve.—Any farmer with general cropland or tame hay land in regular use can put this land in the Conservation Reserve.

You cannot, of course, put the same field in both programs the same year.

When Can You Sign Up?

Opening and closing dates for signing Acreage Reserve agreements and Conservation Reserve contracts will be announced each year the programs are in effect. You can get these dates from your county ASC office.

How Long in the Soil Bank?

You can put land in the *Acreage Reserve* for only 1 calendar year at a time. You sign a 1-year agreement with your county ASC committee, which represents the Secretary of Agriculture.

Your Conservation Reserve contract will be for 3, 5, or 10 years. The length of the contract depends mainly on two things—the conservation use of the land, and on how long you want the contract to run.

Your contract can be for 3, 5, or 10 years if an acceptable grass or legume cover already is on the land. You receive no cost-share payment when the land already is under approved cover and will be kept in that cover. Your contract will be for 5 or 10 years if grass or legume cover must be established. If trees will be planted, your contract will be for 10 years.

"Banking" Your Entire Farm

You can put all your eligible land in the Soil Bank. You can put it all in the Conservation Reserve if you want to. Or, if you have an acreage allotment for one or more “basic” crops in the program, you can put a part of your cropland in the Acreage Reserve, and the remainder in the Conservation Reserve.

About 1 of every 7 farmers participating in the Conservation Reserve has all the eligible land on his farm in the program. Many of them are farming part time.



You Can Still Have a Garden

If you put all your eligible land in the Soil Bank, you can still have a garden to grow food for your own use. Garden crops grown primarily for home use are not considered “Soil Bank base crops,” and will not interfere with your putting all your eligible land in the program. Your county ASC office has a list of the base crops, production of which is being reduced by the Soil Bank. That office also can answer other questions about details of the program, how it will work on your farm, and the exact rates of payment.

You Can Graze Permanent Pasture

Your old, permanent pastureland is *not* eligible for either the Acreage Reserve or the Conservation Reserve.

If you put all your eligible land in the Soil Bank, you can continue to use the permanent pastureland you already had to graze livestock.

General Provisions

Some general provisions apply to both the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve. These are designed to protect the public interest, and to achieve the objectives of the Soil Bank.

Farmers who understand the provisions of their agreements or contracts should have no difficulty complying with them. Soil Bank land cannot be used for hay, grazing, or crop production.

ACP Cost-Sharing

You can use Agricultural Conservation Program cost-sharing as well as cost-sharing under the Conservation Reserve on your farm. In addition to any of the practices approved for cost-sharing under the Conservation Reserve, other ACP practices are eligible for ACP cost-sharing on the same land. Of course, you can't earn two payments for the same practice on the same land.

You also can earn ACP cost-share help for putting conservation practices on land in the Acreage Reserve; for example, a soil-building, erosion-resisting cover crop while your land is in the Acreage Reserve and out of all production.



Other Help

Your county agent, the Forest Service through your State forestry agency, and your Soil Conservation Service technician also can help you with the Conservation Reserve program on your farm.

Looking to the Future

The Soil Bank may fit well into your plans for the future.

If you now farm part time but want to do more off-the-farm work, the Soil Bank may enable you to make this change. You may find that the Soil Bank can help you get ready for retirement—for example, getting some trees started now.

Whether you farm part time or full time, this program can help you shift land from crop production to grass, trees, or wildlife cover, or to develop more water storage.

This new program gives *all* farmers an opportunity to earn substantial payments in exchange for land retirement and conservation work that will actually increase the value of their farm resources. Here is a chance for the entire Nation to make long-needed adjustments in farm production and to conserve soil, water, forest, and wildlife resources that sometimes have been misused in the past and that may be needed in the future.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Your County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee (ASC) office can give you all the facts about the Soil Bank and how it can work on your farm. Members of the committee are farmers who help to adapt the Soil Bank program to fit conditions in your county. Most county ASC offices are in county-seat towns.